

REMARKS

Claims 7-12 are currently pending. Claim 8 is currently amended to correct a typographical error. New matter has not been added.

Rejection under 35 USC §112

In the Office Action dated June 21, 2008, the Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. With the amendment to claim 8, it is believed that this ground of rejection has become moot.

Rejection under 35 USA §103(a)

Claims 7-12 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda et al. (US 6,465,114) in view of Ihara et al. (JP 09-263967). The Examiner asserted that, while Honda does not disclose the usage of any galvanized steel sheet having average surface roughness Ra values and filtered waviness curve values (W_{CA}), such limitations would have been obvious in view of Ihara, which teaches the usage of galvanized steel sheet having average surface roughness Ra values and filtered waviness curve W_{CA} values that also lie within applicants' claimed Ra range and claimed W_{CA} range in order to improve the sheet appearance. To support this position, the Examiner cited the second column group of Table 1 of Ihara.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the examiner. First, the claimed W_{CA} value of the instant application is for a galvanized steel sheet. However, the values shown in the second column group is not for galvanized steel sheets but for steel sheets only after cold rolling. The values for the final products after being galvanized are shown in the first column group. Ihara teaches controlling W_{CA} of a *cold rolled sheet before galvanizing* to achieve a certain

degree of improvement in fingerprint resistance and glossiness. See Example at [0015]-[0016]. Because the processes, which include galvanization following the controlled cold rolling, in Ihara cause roughness to the steel sheets, the final products of Ihara have very high W_{CA} values comparing to the pre-galvanized sheets. These W_{CA} values are more than 50 % of the recited upper limitation of the present invention. Clearly, the surface conditions of the sheets in Ihara are different from those of the present invention.

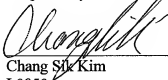
Furthermore, no where in Ihara teaches how to obtain such a low W_{CA} as the present invention. Because Ihara teaches controlling surface of pre-galvanized steel sheets, the galvanized final products would always have higher W_{CA} values. According to Table 1 of Ihara, the final values of W_{CA} in Ihara are increased by almost three folds from those of the cold rolled sheets. Thus, in order to achieve the claimed 0.8 value or less of the present invention though the teaches of Ihara, one would have to make very fine adjustment to the surface during the cold rolling process, which would not have particularly been attractive to one of skill in the art without considering whether it is possible. Meanwhile, the present invention is prepared by an unique process adopting skin-pass rolling *after galvanization* to obtain the required surface conditions. Thus, it is not clear whether one of skill in the art would have been able to make the claimed invention even if he/she would combine Honda and Ihara because Ihara discloses only controlling the surface of pre-galvanized sheets or at least the Examiner has not shown that mere combining of these two references would result in the claimed invention with the particular W_{CA} upper limitation. Even if it is possible, one of skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the Ihara to a degree to obtain as a low W_{CA} of the pre-galvanized steel sheet as to secure the present invention's surface condition in the final product.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully seek a notice of allowance of claims 7-12. A petition for three` month extension of time has been concurrently filed along with an appropriate fee. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any unanticipated fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4377.

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By:

Respectfully submitted,



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